

# **A GUIDE TO RIVER NOMINATIONS**



**New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program  
Department of Environmental Services  
Watershed Management Bureau  
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# **A GUIDE TO RIVER NOMINATIONS**

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## **Preface**

In 1988, the New Hampshire General Court created the Rivers Management and Protection Program within the Department of Environmental Services. This program, administered by a State Rivers Coordinator, establishes a process whereby state residents and organizations may nominate any river or river segment for special designation and protection by the General Court. “A Guide to River Nominations” has been prepared to assist river groups and other interested citizens with the river nomination and evaluation process.

# Chapter I

## Introduction

### **New Hampshire's Rivers**

New Hampshire's rivers and streams are widely recognized for their outstanding values and diversity. Throughout the years, these rivers and their corridors have provided a home for a variety of plants and animals, turned the turbines which powered our mills and factories, provided vital transportation routes and recreation areas, and graced our state with their scenic beauty.

While both the use and conservation of our state's river resources are clearly in the public interest, recent growth and development in New Hampshire have led to increasing and competing demands being placed on our rivers and river corridors. These demands include industrial and municipal wastewater assimilation, drinking water supply, recreational use, and shoreland development.

In 1988, the State Legislature responded to the threats that are facing our rivers by creating the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). The program is based on a two-tiered approach to river management and protection: *state* designation of significant rivers and protection of *instream* values and characteristics (i.e., water quality and flow) and *local* development and adoption of river corridor management plans to protect *shorelines and adjacent lands*. The overall purpose of the program is to protect New Hampshire's significant river resources for the benefit of present and future generations through this unique combination of state and local resource management and protection.

The RMPP is administered by the Department of Environmental Services (DES) and is staffed by a rivers coordinator. DES works closely with the statewide [Rivers Management Advisory Committee](#) (RMAC). Committee members represent a broad range of river interests and meet regularly to advise DES on the implementation of the RMPP.

### **New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Act**

The 1988 New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Act (Chapter 273, Laws of 1988) established a process for local citizens and organizations to nominate rivers and river segments for state protection and management of instream river resources. Specific protection and management measures for these state protected rivers, called "designated rivers," were not identified in this enabling legislation. Instead, DES was directed to work with the new RMAC to develop and submit to the Legislature a proposal for specific protection and management measures for designated rivers (Chapter 233, Laws of 1990). Taken together, the 1988 and 1990 legislation form New Hampshire's first comprehensive statewide rivers program which has been codified into state law as [RSA 483](#).

## **An Overview of the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program**

As noted above, there are two primary components of the RMPP: state designation of rivers for instream protection and management, and local development and adoption of corridor management plans to protect shorelines and adjacent lands. This guide focuses on the nomination process that leads to state designation of a river or river segment. To encourage and assist in the development and adoption of local river corridor management plans, DES has developed a companion publication [\*A Guide to River Corridor Management Plans\*](#).

The process for nominating a river or river segment for designation is straightforward. A river or river segment may be nominated for designation by any New Hampshire citizen or organization. A nomination must include a complete inventory of the river's significant resources and be submitted to the DES Commissioner. After an evaluation by the rivers coordinator and the RMAC, and a public hearing, nominations that have been approved by the commissioner are forwarded to the legislature for review and approval. Before a river can be protected and managed under the program, the legislature must adopt a bill that designates the river into the program and the governor must sign it into law.

## **Protection Measures for Designated Rivers**

A river designation gives a river an extra level of state protection for significant instream river resources, particularly water quality and instream flows. A river classification system has been created to match general river characteristics with specific instream protection measures. The classification system consists of four categories: natural, rural, rural-community and community rivers.

For each river classification, state law mandates instream protection measures related to dams, hydroelectric energy facilities, channel alterations, water quality, protected instream flows, interbasin water transfers, siting of solid and hazardous waste storage or treatment facilities, and recreational use of the river. (See [RSA 483:9](#), [483:9-a](#), [483:9-aa](#), and [483:9-b](#) for the protection measures for natural, rural, rural-community and community rivers, respectively.) The protection measures are most stringent for natural rivers and somewhat more stringent for rural and rural-community rivers than for community rivers. With the exception of the siting of solid and hazardous waste facilities -an area of state jurisdiction -- these instream protection measures do not affect the authorities of local government to regulate land use within a designated river corridor. What is a local land use decision before the designation of a river will remain a local land use decision following a river designation. See Appendix A or [DES Fact Sheet R&L-14](#) for a summary of the river classification system and instream protection measures.

In addition to instream protection measures, a river designation will increase awareness and appreciation of the river. Designation will also provide an incentive for communities along the river to adopt local corridor management plans to insure that future development near the river is consistent with the state designation and protection of the river itself. Following designation, a local river management advisory committee composed of citizens from the towns and cities along the river will be appointed. This committee will assist with and encourage the development and adoption of a river

corridor management plan and will act as a liaison between the river communities and the state. Finally, a protected instream flow and a long-range river management plan will be developed by DES and other state agencies to address the management of instream river resources and state lands in the river corridor and its tributaries.

In order to understand the effects of a river designation, organizations and individuals considering a river nomination, called “river sponsors,” need to fully understand the river classification system and corresponding instream protection measures. In addition to a thorough reading of [RSA 483](#), it is strongly recommended that river sponsors contact the [State Rivers Coordinator](#), at PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0095, (603) 271-8801, before beginning the nomination process and schedule a meeting to review and discuss the classification system, protection measures, and river nomination process in some detail.

## **Chapter II**

### **Preparing a River Nomination**

- Step 1. Contact the State Rivers Coordinator**
- Step 2. Work with a Committee on a River Nomination**
- Step 3. Identify Sources of Help and Information**
- Step 4. Conduct a Resource Assessment**
- Step 5. Build Local Support**
- Step 6. Determine Classification(s) for River or River Segments**
- Step 7. Complete the River Nomination Form**
- Step 8. Submit the Nomination Form**

Many excellent sources of both general and technical assistance are available to individuals and organizations interested in sponsoring a river nomination. A complete list of addresses and telephone numbers for the best agencies and organizations to contact from each section can be found in Appendix B. In this chapter, the seven steps toward completing a river nomination are discussed. A typical schedule for preparation of the nomination is included in Appendix C.

#### **Step 1: Contact the State Rivers Coordinator**

Before starting any work on a river nomination, it is strongly recommended that river sponsors contact the [rivers coordinator](#) at the Department of Environmental Services, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095; (603) 271-801. The rivers coordinator is available to meet with your group to discuss the RMPP and the river nomination process. In addition, the rivers coordinator can suggest local and regional organizations to contact for assistance; supply copies of this guide, nomination forms, and examples of completed river nominations; and provide continuing advice throughout the nomination process.

#### **Step 2: Work with a Committee on a River Nomination**

Under the Rivers Management and Protection Act ([RSA 483](#)), any person or organization may nominate a river for designation into the program. However, it is recommended that all river nominations be developed by a new or existing committee, rather than an individual. Some of the many advantages of working with a committee include the following.

1. A committee can include individuals with a number of different areas of expertise and interest.
2. A committee can represent the geographical diversity along a river.
3. A committee can share the work load.
4. A committee can bring together potentially antagonistic interests to work out a mutually acceptable river nomination.
5. Individual committee members can keep the interest group they represent informed about the progress of the river nomination.

In many communities, there are existing organizations with strong interests in rivers, such as local conservation commissions or watershed associations. If there is such an organization in your area, you may be able to recruit their help with a nomination by contacting them, expressing interest in submitting a nomination for a certain river or river segment, and asking them to work with you. Usually these organizations include people who are interested in rivers and who are very willing to help and participate.

If there is no such organization existing in your area, you should strongly consider forming a new river committee to prepare a nomination. Assistance for this task is available from the rivers coordinator or the [National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program](#).

When forming a river committee, you should strive for both geographical distribution and representation of as many different river interests as possible. Interest groups to consider include business people, conservationists, riparian landowners, anglers, boaters, farmers, municipal and elected local officials, land use planners, timber industry representatives, and developers. Each town along the river should also have a representative; this can be achieved by contacting the selectmen in each town and asking that they recommend or appoint a committee member. In some cases, the selectmen may refer you to the town conservation commission or planning board and may also suggest individuals with various river interests. In some cases, local and statewide organizations such as chambers of commerce, business groups, and conservation organizations can recommend committee members. See Appendix D for a case study on how the Ammonoosuc River Corridor Assessment Committee was formed.

### **Step 3: Identify Sources of Help and Information**

At its first meeting to begin work on a river nomination, a sponsoring organization should make a list of any and all potential sources of help and information. As stated above, there are many sources of both general and technical assistance available to assist river sponsors throughout the nomination process.

One excellent source of information is the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA). The RTCA program offers technical assistance to local and statewide organizations and agencies in New Hampshire and can help with both river committee development and researching and writing river nominations. For information on requesting assistance, [contact the RTCA program](#) at 54 Elm St., Woodstock, VT 05091, (802) 457-3368.

The river nomination form requires specific technical information on river resources. Most of this information already exists in reports and databases compiled by state and federal agencies, regional planning commissions, private research organizations, and universities. If information on a particular resource on your river is not available, it may be possible for an agency or organization to shift priorities and conduct a study to fill this information gap. In addition, agency and organization staff members may be able to suggest alternative ways of learning what you need to know and are usually willing to meet with a river sponsor to discuss their area of resource expertise.

## **Step 4: Conduct a Resource Assessment**

The resource assessment forms the basis of a river nomination, and collecting data for the assessment is a task that a river sponsor should embark on early in the nomination process. This section describes the information required on the nomination form for each of 21 resource categories. All of these resource categories should be investigated by the sponsor, but there is no reason to limit the resource assessment to only the categories listed in the nomination form. Additional categories may be added at the discretion of the sponsor.

### **Checklist: Resource Assessment Categories**

#### **Natural Resources:**

- Geologic Resources**
- Wildlife Resources**
- Vegetation/Natural Ecological Communities**
- Fish Resources**
- Water Quality**
- Open Space**
- Natural Flow Characteristics**

#### **Managed Resources:**

- Impoundments Land Use**
- Withdrawals/Discharges**
- Hydroelectric Resources**

#### **Cultural Resources:**

- Historical/Archaeological Resources**
- Community River Resource**

#### **Recreational Resources:**

- Fishery Resources**
- Boating Resources**
- Other Recreation**
- Public Access**

#### **Other Resources:**

- Scenic Resources**
- Land Use**
- Land Use Controls**
- Water Quality**
- Riparian Interests/ Flowage Rights**

As discussed in Step 3, most of the information required by the resource assessment already exists. A brief description of each resource category and listing of likely sources of information appear below. See Appendix B for the contact information of the agencies and organizations that are listed as sources of assistance.

When completing the resource assessment, it is most important to list resources found within the river corridor. The river corridor is defined as the area of land adjacent to the river and extending a quarter-mile from the river. Resources included in the nomination that are found outside of the corridor, yet within the river's watershed should be clearly identified as such.

## **1. Natural Resources**

### **a. Geologic Resources**

Describe the important geologic resources found in the river and its corridor. Note their significance at the national, regional, statewide, or local level. Geologic resources to consider include those of natural history, visual, or economic interest. Natural history may include interesting bedrock, rapids, waterfalls, and surrounding topography such as evidence of glaciation. Scenic resources may include, in addition to the rapids and waterfalls listed above, gorges, cliffs, and bluffs. Economic geology may include the presence of ore minerals or materials such as sand and gravel. Significant aquifers in a river corridor are also a geologic resource.

**For assistance with geologic resources, contact:** The State Geologist's office, the Office of Energy and Planning; the U.S. Geological Survey, or the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

### **b. Wildlife Resources**

List mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians commonly found in the river and its corridor. List any federal or state-listed endangered or threatened animal species that rely on the river environment for food and shelter. Identify significant wildlife habitat that is supported by the river, or to which the river is integral, for game and non-game wildlife populations. Report if the habitat has been determined to be exceptionally diverse, very diverse, or moderately diverse by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Finally, determine and record if the river corridor is important for movement of wildlife between large habitat areas.

The Fish and Game Department maintains the state's official list of federal and state-listed endangered and threatened wildlife species. In 2006 Fish and Game also developed the [Wildlife Action Plan](#), which should be used to identify the location of critical habitats and populations of the state's species of conservation and management concern. Additional data on wildlife in New Hampshire may be found at the New Hampshire [Natural Heritage Bureau Data Check](#).

In addition, geographic information system (GIS) maps will be a valuable source of information about wildlife habitat. The state maintains, [GRANIT](#), a GIS database with this information, including the Wildlife Action Plan maps. Contact Regional Planning Commissions, the NH Office of Energy and Planning or UNH Complex Systems for assistance in obtaining these maps.

**For assistance with wildlife resources, contact:** Fish and Game Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau, Department of Resources and Economic Development, the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation, the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, The Nature Conservancy, GRANIT, the NH Office of Energy and Planning, Regional Planning Commissions, or UNH Complex Systems.

#### **c. Vegetation/Natural Ecological Communities**

List the types of plant communities commonly found in the river corridor. List and identify the location of any federal or state-listed endangered or threatened species that are found in the river corridor. If the Natural Heritage Bureau lists an exemplary natural ecological community as occurring in the river corridor, list that community and identify its location.

**For assistance with vegetation/natural communities, contact:** The Natural Heritage Bureau, the Department of Resources and Economic Development, or The Nature Conservancy.

#### **d. Fish Resources**

List the common fish species that inhabit the river, including non-game species and any federal or state-listed endangered or threatened species. Note the locations of important aquatic habitat for particular fish populations, e.g., spawning habitat for Atlantic salmon. Report if the habitat has been identified as being valued, but not necessarily rare, and is determined by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Describe any ongoing fisheries management programs, indicating if fisheries rely on natural reproduction or a stocking program. Identify if the river is a viable anadromous and diadromous fish resource. If so, explain any ongoing or planned restoration programs.

**For assistance with fish resources, contact:** The Fish and Game Department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **e. Water Quality**

Identify whether the river or segment has been given a Class A or Class B water quality classification by the state legislature. The water quality classification for a river can be quickly obtained from the DES Water Division. Identify whether the river is meeting water quality standards. The division can provide information on the current water quality of the river and major causes of water quality degradation. This information should be included on the nomination form and can be found within the DES [Surface Water Quality Assessments](#).

Describe the required action(s) needed to meet water quality standards, if any, and any proposals or plans to improve present water quality conditions, e.g., upgrade wastewater treatment facility.

**For assistance with water quality, contact:** The DES Watershed Management Bureau or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **f. Open Space**

For the purpose of the resource inventory, open space is defined Open space and protected land parcels shall include, but not be limited to, national forest lands, state parks and forests, municipal parks, and land that is subject to a conservation easements. as any undeveloped land, including floodplains, woodlands, and farmlands land that is subject to a conservation easements. Open space may be publicly or privately owned. List the type (wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, farmlands, etc.), type of ownership, and location of significant areas of open space within the river corridor. Identify any protected lands within the river corridor (publicly owned lands or lands under a conservation easement).

**For assistance with open space, contact:** The town conservation commissions, the Division of Forest and Lands, Department of Resources and Economic Development, the Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Resources and Economic Development, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Regional Planning Commissions, The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests or local land trusts.

#### **g. Natural Flow Characteristics**

Describe the flow characteristics of the river. Note if the river is substantially free-flowing, i.e., no dams regulate the flow of the river, and describe the size and duration of the spring run-off, summer flow amounts and the frequency and duration of flood events. If the river is regulated, describe the purpose and effects of existing dams (both within and upstream from the river segment) diversion works and other minor modifications on the natural flow of the river. Indicate the locations where the river is free-flowing. Also, if applicable, indicate flow variations interbasin transfers.

**For assistance with flow characteristics, contact:** The DES Water Division or the U.S. Geological Survey.

### **2. Managed Resources**

#### **a. Impoundments**

List all existing and proposed dams in the river including those that are breached or in ruins. However, do not include existing or proposed dams that are used for hydroelectric energy production. These will be listed separately in the managed resources category. For dams other than hydroelectric facilities, briefly describe each structure, including its location, ownership and purpose (for example, flood control, recreation, wildlife habitat, or water supply). If known, indicate whether minimum flow requirements exist at any of the impoundments.

**For assistance with impoundments, contact:** The DES Dam Bureau or individual dam owners.

## **b. Water Withdrawals and Discharges**

Water is withdrawn from rivers for such purposes as municipal water supplies, irrigation and industrial process water. Wastewater is discharged to rivers from municipal sewage treatment plants and industrial process water returns. The DES Water Division, can provide a listing of all major withdrawals (>20,000 gallons /day) and a listing of all facilities that hold a point source wastewater discharge permit (NPDES permit). For subsection (1), list all major water withdrawals, their location and the purpose of such withdrawals. Note if the river is an existing or potential drinking, agricultural or industrial water supply. If the river is a potential drinking, agricultural or industrial water supply, identify the study(ies) that deemed it to be, if any. For subsection (2), list all wastewater discharges and note the type of discharge, source, and location and whether or not it is permitted by the state.

**For assistance with water withdrawals and discharges, contact:** The DES Water Division.

## **c. Hydroelectric Resources**

List all known existing and potential sites for hydropower production. Identify the owner and location of each site, and when known, whether the structure is licensed by or exempt from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). An excellent source of information about potential sites for hydroelectric energy production is the [New Hampshire River Protection and Energy Development Project Final Report \(New England Rivers Center, 1983\)](#), a copy of which can be obtained from the rivers coordinator. Other good sources of information about potential hydroelectric power sites are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' National Hydro Electric Power Study (1980), and *Water, Watts, and Wilds Hydropower and Competing Uses in New England - Final Report of the New England River Basin Commission's Hydropower Expansion Study* (1981).

**For assistance with hydroelectric resources, contact:** The DES Dam Bureau, individual dam owners, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), or the [New Hampshire River Protection and Energy Development Project Final Report \(New England Rivers Center, 1983\)](#).

## **3. Cultural Resources**

### **a. Historical/Archaeological Resources**

For the purposes of the resource inventory, archaeological resources refer to evidence of Native American habitations while historical resource refers to the period from European settlement to the present. Describe any archaeological or historical resources that exist within the river or river corridor which have been listed or are eligible for listing on a federal or state resource listing, for example, the National Register of Historic Places. If known, indicate the level of significance, i.e., national, state, regional, or local. In addition, note any local town histories, oral histories, or general historical knowledge about the use of the river or its corridor. For a listing of historic sites in the state please

see the [NH Division of Historical Resources](#) or the [National Park Service](#).

**For assistance with historical or archaeological resources, contact:** The Division of Historical Resources, Department of Cultural Resources, the New Hampshire Historical Society, or town historical societies or heritage commissions.

#### **b. Community River Resources**

Briefly describe what the river means to the communities through which it flows. An example would be a discussion of how the river contributed to the historic development of the riverfront towns and what it means to those towns today. Indicate for example, if parks have been created along the river, redevelopment has centered on the river or if other efforts are being carried out to protect the river. Try to answer the question “What does the river mean to you?” from the various points of view of different people in the river communities. If the importance of the river is recognized in any official town documents, such as a master plan, include a reference to such documents.

**For assistance with community resources, contact:** The town selectmen, chambers of commerce, municipal recreation departments, conservation commissions, planning boards, historical societies, or the Regional Planning Commissions.

### **4. Recreational Resources**

#### **a. Fishery Resources**

Identify the location and type of significant fisheries that are frequented by fishermen. Record if a river has a high quality fishery as determined by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, including coldwater and warmwater fish habitat. Also indicate areas that have potential to be significant fisheries.

#### **b. Boating Resources**

Describe the types of boating experiences that the river offers, including descriptions in local or regional boating guidebooks. Note if the river attracts boaters from beyond the local area and if the river is used for motorized boating. Refer to the [NH River Protection and Energy Development Project Final Report \(New England Rivers Center Study, 1983\)](#) to determine the river’s significance as a recreational boating river. Also identify and locate potential recreational boating sites.

#### **c. Other Recreational Resources**

List other recreational activities that people enjoy either in or next to the river. This may include such things as swimming, hiking, camping, biking, bird watching and hunting. Identify ownership of recreational lands and facilities where possible. If there are areas with potential to be used for recreational activities, note these as well.

#### **d. Public Access**

List any locations that provide public access to the river. This list may include both formal and non-formal sites such as rights-of-way to bridge crossings, which are often used as access points. Note the location, ownership, type of access, e.g., canoe only, and related facilities, e.g., parking, provided at each of these sites.

**For assistance with recreational resources, contact:** The town recreation departments, the Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Resources and Economic Development; the Fish and Game Department, the Office of Energy and Planning, the Division of Safety Services, Department of Safety, watershed associations, the Appalachian Mountain Club River Guide, the New Hampshire Atlas and Gazetteer (DeLorme), the New England White Water River Guide (Gabler), or the [New Hampshire River Protection and Energy Development Project Final Report \(New England Rivers Center, 1983\).](#)

### **5. Other Resources**

#### **a. Scenic Resources**

Describe and identify the locations of any significant scenic views along the river. Consider both views of the river and those from the river. Views from public roads and trails may be included, and may be as diverse as a sight of the river from its banks to a view from a high point overlooking the river valley. Be sure to consider the viewpoint of various river users, e.g., canoeists, birders, etc. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Describe and identify the location of the views which are most pleasing to you. You may wish to include photographs of these views with the nomination form.

**For assistance with scenic resources, contact:** The Regional Planning Commissions, the National Park Service, or the U.S. Forest Service (if appropriate).

#### **b. Land Use**

Describe the general patterns of current land use in the river corridor. Include the location of agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial sites, solid waste management facilities and lands used for forest management or which are undeveloped. Also include such features as roads along the river, railroads, bridges, and utility crossings. Identify the type and location of any proposals for major developments within the river corridor.

**For assistance with land use, contact:** The town planning boards, the Regional Planning Commissions, U.S. Geological Survey maps, or the Office of Energy and Planning.

#### **c. Land Use Controls**

List the municipalities within the river corridor that have existing master plans and/or zoning ordinances. Identify existing or significant local land use controls that affect the river and the river corridor, e.g., zoning ordinances, easements, subdivision regulations.

**For assistance with land use controls, contact:** The Office of Energy and Planning, the Regional Planning Commissions, or town planning boards and conservation commissions.

#### **d. Water Quantity**

List the location along the river of all operating stream gauge stations maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or DES. Indicate the number of years of record and whether it is a partial or full record.

**For assistance with water quantity, contact:** The U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or the DES Water Division.

#### **e. Riparian Interests/ Flowage Rights**

Describe riparian interests within the corridor, specifically legislatively granted flowage rights. For example, a town given legislative authorization to water for public consumption in the 19th century.

**For assistance with riparian interests/flowage rights, contact:** Town offices, or the [State Rivers Coordinator](#).

### **Step 5: Build Local Support**

Public involvement and support are essential components to any successful river conservation effort and a river nomination is no exception. For the nomination (Part III of nomination form), river sponsors are asked to show evidence of public support, including letters of support from elected and appointed local officials. By law ([RSA 483:6, I](#)), the sponsor is required to hold at least one public meeting before submitting the nomination to the DES. This meeting must be advertised and written notice of the meeting must be given to all riverfront towns along the nominated segment. Regardless, public involvement should begin early and continue throughout the nomination process. Imagination and a concentrated effort are key to involving the public; a few examples of ways to build and show evidence of local support are described below.

One of the most important techniques for building public support is to have a strong sponsoring organization for the river nomination. The process of developing a new river committee was discussed above in Step 2. If a sponsoring organization has strong representation from all of the towns along the river and if different interests are well-represented, including local officials and community leaders, the work of the Sponsor will naturally be well-received by the general public. One way to strengthen the relationship between the Sponsor and the river communities is to ask for a simple endorsement from the towns along the river at town meeting. A sample warrant article appears in Appendix E. A DES fact sheet [The New Hampshire River Management and Protection Program R&L 2](#) answers to frequently asked questions” concerning the RMPP may be photocopied by the sponsor for use in informing the public about the nomination.

While a sponsor is working on a nomination, it is important to increase public awareness of the river, its resources, and the potential threats to both. Some ways to raise awareness of the river are to:

1. Issue a press release on the findings of a study on river resources.
2. Hold a public meeting to discuss local river protection efforts; show slides and maps of the river.
3. Write letters to the editors of the local and regional newspapers.
4. Hold a special event that involves the community, such as a river clean-up day or a boat race.
5. Invite the public to a wildlife-watch canoe trip, guided by a naturalist.
6. Invite a local politician to dedicate a new boat launch.
7. Start a water quality testing program.
8. Appear on a local radio station to discuss the river nomination.

Another way to gain public support is to involve the public in the sponsor's efforts. If the sponsor is compiling an inventory of the natural resources of the river, a public meeting to review the results, or a public float trip to collect data, will gain allies among the public. Similarly, if the sponsor begins to identify problems and develop solutions to situations threatening the protection of the river, a public meeting to discuss results will help people to understand the sponsor's actions and feel some ownership of the results.

Public support for a river nomination can be demonstrated in many ways. Many river sponsors have focused on three techniques: surveys, new or existing local river plans, and letters of support from elected and appointed local boards and officials.

A model landowner survey has been developed to gauge public support for river protection. This survey appears in Appendix F and may be used as is or can be modified to fit the needs of a particular river. The danger in using a survey, of course, is that it may show a lack of support for river protection. Before mailing out a survey, sponsors should feel confident that there is sufficient public awareness about the importance of the river. Surveys can be mailed to all riparian landowners or may be modified and mailed to all or a sample of town residents and landowners. Tax rolls are generally the most reliable source of landowner names and addresses. A community survey can be a fun group exercise for a sponsor, and data entry and tabulation can be done by one person with access to a computer.

In many communities, existing town planning documents show clear evidence of local support for river conservation and protection. For example, a local ordinance that requires new buildings to be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the river is evidence of local action to protect the river. Local master plans may include statements on the importance of the river that can also be used as evidence of local support for the river.

As a sponsoring organization begins to collect letters of support to include with the nomination, effective and appropriate sources to contact include boards of selectmen, city councils, planning boards, and conservation commissions. Letters from these officials may take the form of a resolution or a simple statement of endorsement. Letters of

support can also be solicited from local businesses, civic organizations, neighborhood associations, outdoor clubs, watershed groups and area legislators. ***Remember, a strong show of support at the local level can make the difference as to whether or not a nomination results in successful designation.***

## **Step 6: Determine Classification(s) for River or River Segments**

Each river designated into the RMPP must be classified according to the land use and instream characteristics that correspond most closely with the segment(s). Under the classification system established by law ([RSA 483:7a](#)), rivers or segments may be classified as natural, rural, rural-community, or community. The sponsor should consider the classification criteria outlined in the law when preparing a nomination. This is important because a river or segment must meet certain criteria for minimum length, water quality and minimum distance to roads to be eligible for specific classification(s). Refer to the complete text of the Rivers Management and Protection Act ([RSA 483](#)) for specific classification criteria and also the protection measures (defined in [RSA 483:9](#), [9-a](#), [9-aa](#), and [9-b](#)) that will be implemented if a river or segment is classified as natural, rural, rural-community, or community.

A simple way to determine which river classifications will be appropriate to propose in the nomination is to first divide the river into segments, using natural or permanent landmarks such as confluences or political boundaries. Then using maps and local land use and zoning information as guides, determine which classification criteria are met and what protection measures are desired (as indicated by public support or disapproval) along each segment and decide on a suitable classification(s). The law requires that each segment's start and end point, and mileage be identified in the nomination.

The sponsor should present findings or a description of each segment to back up the proposed classification for the nomination. If the sponsor finds that a proposed classification for the river or segment does not meet the criteria for a particular river classification, but feels that the classification is appropriate and justifiable, then corresponding documentation should be included with the nomination.

## **Step 7: Completing the River Nomination Form**

At this stage in the river nomination process, a river sponsor should have completed the resource inventory and been working to develop public support for the protection of the river. With these elements in place, it is time to begin filling out the river nomination form found in Appendix G. The nomination form is self-explanatory, but refer to Step 4 and do not hesitate to contact the [rivers coordinator](#) if there are any questions concerning the type of information being requested. A checklist of required information for a river nomination which corresponds to the nomination form is included in Appendix H.

A river nomination must be typed directly on the nomination form, and additional pages may be used when the space provided is insufficient. Alternatively, a digital version of this form may be obtained from the DES or from the [RMPP website](#).

At least one map of the river and its corridor must be submitted as part of the nomination.

At a minimum, this map must show the nominated river or segment, municipal boundaries, and roads. U.S. Geological Survey maps (scale 1:24,000) are ideal for this purpose, though a map of equivalent accuracy and detail may be substituted. A locator map showing the location of the river or segment within the state must also be included. It is also an excellent idea to include additional maps showing the location of significant river resources. For example, a nomination may include both a general map of the river and separate maps showing land use, wildlife habitats (deer yards, wetlands, eagle roosting areas), dams, recreational areas, etc. Contact the [rivers coordinator](#) for examples of maps prepared by other river groups.

### **Step 8: Submit the Nomination**

All river nominations must be submitted directly to the rivers coordinator at DES on or before June 1 in order to be considered in the next legislative session. A nomination should be accompanied by a letter of submittal addressed to the rivers coordinator. You are required to submit two hard copies of the nomination; one should be easily reproduced, i.e., unbound, high quality print, and a digital version. Once submitted, all materials included with the nomination become the property of DES.

Official DES logos are available for documentation should river sponsors wish to use them.

### **Mail or deliver a completed river nomination to:**

N.H. Department of Environmental Services  
Rivers Coordinator  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Although there is no annual deadline for the submission of river nominations, Sponsors should remember that the law allows DES 165 days to review and prepare a recommendation on a nomination. In order to ensure that an approved river nomination will be submitted to the state Legislature for consideration by the beginning of the next legislative session, river sponsors should plan to submit the nomination to DES no later than June 1.

## **Chapter III**

### **The River Evaluation Process**

After a river nomination is submitted, the rivers coordinator will review it to check for any missing or incomplete information. This review will be made on the basis of the nomination requirements listed in the administrative rules adopted by DES to guide the submission, acceptance and review of river nominations ([Env-Wq 1800](#)). If the nomination is incomplete, the rivers coordinator will notify the contact person within 30 days to explain what information must be submitted to complete the nomination. As soon as the nomination is complete, the river evaluation process will begin. Below is an outline of the steps in the river nomination process as required by law and by rule:

- Step 1: State Rivers Coordinator Evaluation
- Step 2: RMAC Evaluation
- Step 3: Public Hearing
- Step 4: Rivers Coordinator and RMAC Recommendations
- Step 5: Commissioner Recommendations
- Step 6: Legislative Review and Approval

#### **Step 1: State Rivers Coordinator Evaluation**

By law, the rivers coordinator has 120 days to review and evaluate a river nomination. During this time, the rivers coordinator will evaluate the nomination using a system that has been designed to both identify significant resources and to ensure consistency in the manner in which each river nomination is evaluated. The system consists of a general evaluation and the awarding of points for the presence of significant resources within each resource category.

Under the point system evaluation, the point total in each resource category, i.e. natural, managed, cultural, recreational and other, will be one factor considered in the river evaluation process. It is not necessary, nor is it expected, that a river receive a high point total in all resource categories to be given a positive recommendation. The point system was developed to identify all, and in some cases, competing river resources. Therefore, a river with a high score in the natural resource category may receive a low score in the managed resource category, for example, a river flowing through national forest lands. Similarly, a river with a low score in the natural resource category may receive a high score in all three other categories, for example, a river flowing through a city.

The point system will not be used to rank one river against other rivers; it is a tool to identify the resources that are present on a given river and will be used primarily as a point of departure for the discussion of a river nomination. The point system evaluation will also serve as an indicator of the appropriate classification for a river, i.e., natural, rural, rural-community, community or some combination.

## **Step 2: Rivers Management Advisory Committee Evaluation**

The RMAC also takes part in the river evaluation process. The river sponsor will want to contact the RMAC about being placed on the RMAC's agenda for one of its meetings to make a presentation about the nominated river. This presentation is an opportunity to highlight the most outstanding resources of the nominated river, to answer questions from the committee members about the river nomination, and most importantly, to introduce the committee members to the river. This latter point is very important as few, if any, of the committee members are familiar with all of New Hampshire's rivers.

The presentation should consist of a brief talk (maximum 20 minutes) and may also include a visual presentation such as a slide show or video tape. Experience with the previous round of river nominations has shown that a slide presentation is a very effective way to communicate the character of a river to the committee. It need not be a polished show: a series of organized slides showing river scenes, land uses, significant views, and other important resources the sponsor believes are important will be very effective. It is sometimes helpful to arrange the slides or video tape at the headwaters and move downstream. The sponsor might also consider inviting the RMAC to take a trip down the nominated river either by vehicle or by boat to better acquaint the members with the special qualities of the river.

The rivers coordinator can give further advice if the sponsor has questions about the presentation to the RMAC. Sponsors may also contact the [rivers coordinator](#) for more information about what types of questions to expect from committee members.

## **Step 3: Public Hearing**

By law, at least one public hearing must be held in a community along each nominated river to receive public comments on the nomination. The public hearing will be hosted jointly by the rivers coordinator and the RMAC. The hearing provides both the State rivers coordinator and the RMAC with an opportunity to gage the level of public support for the river nomination. At the hearing, anyone wishing to comment on the nomination will be given an opportunity to speak. An opportunity will also be given for people who are unable to attend the hearing, or who do not wish to speak, to submit written comments. This public hearing is an important opportunity for the people who live in the towns and cities along the river to express their support for the designation of the river into the program. The sponsor will want to make sure that local officials and other interested people are aware of the hearing and will attend to demonstrate and express their support for the river nomination.

## **Step 4: State Rivers Coordinator and RMAC Recommendations**

Following the public hearing, both the rivers coordinator and the RMAC will complete their evaluations and prepare recommendations consistent with the provisions of [RSA 483:6, IV](#), and with consideration of the comments received at the public hearing, those received from local boards and commissions and other comments submitted to the rivers

coordinator concerning the river nomination. These recommendations will then be forwarded to the DES commissioner for review and approval. The recommendations will include a summary of the resource values and characteristics which qualify the river for designation, an accounting of the points awarded in each resource category, the appropriate river classification(s), and a summary of demonstrated public support for the nomination.

The recommendations of the rivers coordinator and the RMAC will be based on the following factors. (For a complete set of the administrative rules governing the submittal and evaluation of river nominations please see [Env-Wq 1800](#).)

- (1) Whether the river or segment(s) of such a river contain or represent either a significant statewide or local example of one or more of the following:
  - (a) Scenic or recreational resource
  - (b) Open space or natural resource
  - (c) Fisheries, wildlife, vegetation, and rare species or habitat
  - (d) Cultural, historical, or archaeological resource
  - (e) Hydrological or geological resource
  - (f) Water quality
  - (g) Scientific resource
  - (h) Community resource
  - (i) Current or projected withdrawals, discharges, or both, by public utilities and commercial or industrial users.
- (2) Public hearing comments and other comments submitted to the rivers coordinator.
- (3) The level of demonstrated community support for the nomination.
- (4) The point system evaluation.

### **Step 5: Commissioner Recommendation**

To decide whether to approve the nomination, the DES commissioner will review the recommendations of the rivers coordinator and the RMAC and the river nomination on the basis of the factors listed above, and will determine whether the nomination is consistent with policies and intents defined in [RSA 483:1](#) and [RSA 483:2](#). By law, the commissioner must forward all approved nominations in the form of a bill to the State Legislature for consideration in the next legislative session. Generally, this bill will simply identify the river or segment to be designated and adopt the appropriate river classification. (For example, "Lamprey River: mainstem from the Epping-Lee town line to the Durham-Newmarket town line as a rural river.") In addition, the rivers coordinator will prepare a "report to the General Court" for each approved nomination, which describes the resource values and characteristics that qualify the river for designation and presents the DES recommendations for the nominated river.

### **Step 6: Legislative Review and Approval**

The State Legislature will consider a bill to designate a river or segment into the RMPP in the same manner that it considers any piece of legislation. For example, if the river designation bill is sponsored by a representative then it becomes a House Bill and will be

sent to a House committee for a public hearing to receive comments on the recommended designation. The committee will send the bill to the full House for a vote with its recommendation of "ought to pass with amendment," "inexpedient to legislate," or be sent to "interim study." If the bill is passed, it will be sent to the Senate and the public hearing/voting process will be repeated. If the Senate approves the bill, it will be sent to the Governor for signature. Again, a strong demonstration of public support is often critical to the successful passage of a bill seeking river designation by the Legislature.

# Appendix A

## River Classifications and State Regulated Protection Measures As They Apply To Each Classification

	<u>RIVER CLASSIFICATIONS</u>			
	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Rural-Community</u>	<u>Community</u>
<b><u>Activities Allowed</u></b>				
<b><u>Dams &amp; Encroachments</u></b>				
Construction of New Dams	No	No	No	Yes
Reconstruction of Breached Dams	No	Yes (within six years)	Yes (within six years)	Yes
Channel Alterations	No (excluding repair)	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)
<b><u>Water Quality/ Water Quantity</u></b>				
Water Quality	Class A or B	Class B	Class B	Class B
Interbasin Transfers	No	No	No	No
Protected Instream Flow	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b><u>Waste Disposal</u></b>				
New Landfills	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)
New Hazardous Waste Facilities	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)
Other New Solid Waste Facilities	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)
New Septic Systems	No (within 75 ft.)	No (within 75 ft.)	No (within 75 ft.)	No (within 75 ft.)
New Auto Junk Yards	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)
<b><u>Fertilizer</u></b>				
Limestone	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sludge and Septage	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)	No (within 250 ft.)
Low Phosphorus, Slow Release Nitrogen	No (within 25 ft.)	No (within 25 ft.)	No (within 25 ft.)	No (within 25 ft.)
All Other Fertilizers	No (within 25 ft.)	No (within 25 ft.)	No (within 25 ft.)	No (within 25 ft.)
<b><u>Pesticides and Herbicides</u></b>				

All pesticides and herbicides	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)
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**Recreation Use**

Motorized Watercraft	No	Yes (within 150 ft. of shoreline, only “headway” speed)	Yes (within 150 ft. of shoreline, only “headway” speed)	Yes (within 150 ft. of shoreline, only “headway” speed)
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**New Building**

Primary Structure	No (within 50 ft.)	No (within 50 ft.)	No (within 50 ft.)	No (within 50 ft.)
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Multiple Dwellings	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)	Yes (with conditions)
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Impervious Surface Cover	Yes, with conditions	Yes, with conditions	Yes, with conditions	Yes, with conditions
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Subdivision	Yes, with approval	Yes, with approval	Yes, with approval	Yes, with approval
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**Buffer Removal**

Natural Ground Cover	No (within 50 ft., except for 6 ft. path)	No (within 50 ft., except for 6 ft. path)	No (within 50 ft., except for 6 ft. path)	No (within 50 ft., except for 6 ft. path)
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Stumps, Roots and Rocks	No (within 50 ft.)	No (within 50 ft.)	No (within 50 ft.)	No (within 50 ft.)
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For further information about the N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program visit the DES website at [des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/index.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/index.htm) or contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095; (603) 271-8801; [steven.couture@des.nh.gov](mailto:steven.couture@des.nh.gov).

## **Appendix B**

### **Sources of Technical Information and Assistance Federal, State, and Regional Agencies and Private Organizations**

#### **Federal Agencies:**

Federal Emergency Management Agency , 99 High Street ,6th Floor, Boston, MA 02110; (617) 956-7506

[Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#), 888 1st Street, NE Washington, DC 20426; (202) 502-6088

[National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program](#), 54 Elm St., Woodstock, VT 05091; (802) 457-3368

[US Army Corps of Engineers](#), 424 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA 02254-9149; (617) 647-8111

[US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#), Federal Building, 2 Madbury Road Durham, NH 03824-1499; (603) 868-7581

[US Fish and Wildlife Service](#), New England Field Office, 70 Commercial Street Concord, NH 03301-5087; (603) 223-2541

[US Environmental Protection Agency](#), Region I ,1 Congress Street, Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02114-2023; (617) 918-1111

[US Forest Service White Mountain National Forest](#), 719 North Main Street, Laconia, NH 03246; (603) 528-8721

[US Geological Survey - NH/VT District](#) ,361 Commerce Way Pembroke, NH 03275; (603) 225-4681

#### **State Agencies:**

[NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Foods](#), 25 Capitol Street, 2nd Floor, PO Box 2042, Concord, NH 03302-2042; (603) 271-3551

[NH Department of Cultural Affairs, Division of Historical Resources](#), 20 Park Street, Concord, NH 03301; (603) 271-2392

[NH Department of Environmental Services](#), 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095; (603) 271-3505

[NH Department of Resources & Economic Development](#), 172 Pembroke Road, PO Box 1856, Concord, NH 03302-1856; (603) 271-2411

[NH Department of Safety, Division of Safety Services](#), 31 Dock Road, Gilford, NH 03246 ;(603) 293-2037

[NH Fish and Game Department](#), 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301; (603) 271-3211

[NH Office of Energy and Planning](#), 57 Regional Drive, Suite 3 Concord, NH 03301-8519; (603) 271-2155

[Public Utilities Commission](#), 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, NH 03301-2429; (603) 271-2431

[UNH Cooperative Extension Service State Office](#), 59 College Road, Taylor Hall Durham, NH 03824-2618; (603) 862-1520

[UNH Complex Systems](#), Morse Hall, 39 College Road, Durham, NH 03824; (603) 862-1792

**Regional Planning Agencies:**

[Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission](#), 28 Commercial Street, Concord, NH 03301; (603) 226-6020

[Lakes Region Planning Commission](#), 103 Main Street, Suite 3 Meredith, NH 03253-9287; (603) 279-8171

[Nashua Regional Planning Commission](#), 115 Main Street, Nashua, NH 03061; (603) 883-0366

[North Country Council](#), The Cottage at the Rocks, 107 Glessner Road, Bethlehem, NH 03574; (603) 444-6303

[Rockingham Planning Commission](#), 156 Water Street, Exeter, NH 03833-2487; (603) 778-0885

[Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission](#), 438 Dubuque Street, Manchester, NH 03102; (603) 669-4664

[Southwest Regional Planning Commission](#), 20 Central Square, 2nd Floor Keene, NH 03431 ;(603) 357-0557

[Strafford Regional Planning Commission](#), 2 Ridge Street, Dover, NH 03820; (603) 742-2523

[Upper Valley -- Lake Sunapee Council](#), 30 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766-1704; (603) 448-1680

**National Private Organizations:**

[American Rivers](#), 1101 14th Street NW, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20005; (202)347-7550

[Friends of the Earth](#), 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 600 Washington, DC 20036-2002; (877) 843-8687

[National Audubon Society](#), 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003; (212) 979-3000

[National Wildlife Federation](#), 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, VA 20190-5362; (800) 822-9919

[The Nature Conservancy](#), 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100  
Arlington, VA 22203-1606; (703) 841-5300

[New England Forestry Foundation](#), PO Box 1346, Littleton, MA 01460; (978) 952-6856

[New England Wild Flower Society](#), 180 Hemingway Road, Framingham, MA 01701; (508)877-7630

[The River Management Society](#), PO Box 9048, Missoula, MT 59807-4048; (406) 549-0514

[Sierra Club](#), 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105; (415) 977-5500

[Trout Unlimited](#), 1300 N. 17th St., Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22209-2404; (800) 834-2419

[Wildlife Society](#), 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-2144; (301) 897-9770

**Private State/Regional Organizations:**

[Appalachian Mountain Club](#), Pinkham Notch Visitor's Center ,PO Box 298, Gorham, NH 03581; (603) 466-2721

[Audubon Society of New Hampshire](#), 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301; (603) 224-9909

[Bear-Paw Regional Greenways](#), PO Box 19, Deerfield, NH 03037-0019; (603) 231-2447

[Beaver Brook Association](#), 117 Ridge Road Hollis, NH 03049; (603) 465-7787

[Connecticut River Watershed Council](#), 15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301; (413) 772-2020

[Five Rivers Conservation Trust](#), 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301; (603) 225-7225

[Lakes Region Conservation Trust](#), P.O. Box 1097, Meredith, NH 03253; (603) 279-3246

[Monadnock Conservancy](#), P.O. Box 337, Keene, NH 03431-0337; (603) 357-0600

[Merrimack River Watershed Council](#), 600 Suffolk Street, Fifth Floor Lowell, MA 01854; (978) 275-0120

[The Nature Conservancy, New Hampshire Field Office](#), 22 Bridge Street, 4th Floor, Concord, New Hampshire 03301; (603) 224-5853

[New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions](#), 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301; (603) 224-7867

[New Hampshire Historical Society](#), 30 Park Street, Concord, NH 03301; (603) 228-6688

[New Hampshire Municipal Association](#), PO Box 617, Concord, NH 03302-0617; (603) 224-7447

[New Hampshire Rivers Council](#) 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 (603) 228-6472

[New Hampshire Wildlife Federation](#), 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301; (603) 224-5953

[Nissitissit River Land Trust](#), PO Box 86, Hollis NH 03049-0086; (603) 882-1431

[Piscataquog Watershed Association](#), 5A Mill Street, New Boston, NH 03070

[Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests](#) ,54 Portsmouth Street , Concord, New Hampshire 03301; (603)224-9945

[Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire](#), PO Box 675, Exeter, NH 03833; (603) 778-6088

[Strafford Rivers Conservancy](#), P.O. Box 623, Dover, New Hampshire 03821-0623; (603) 516-0772

[Upper Valley Land Trust](#), 19 Buck Road, Hanover, NH 03755; (603) 643-6626

## Appendix C

### Typical Nomination Schedule

Month	Activity
June/July Aug./Sept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Show and Tell” about the river.</li> <li>• Mail questionnaire.</li> <li>• Begin to solicit comments/letters of support from local officials.</li> <li>• Collect information on natural resources including: geology, floodplains, wildlife, endangered species, natural communities, fish Resources, water quality and natural flow characteristics discussion of findings on natural resources.</li> </ul>
Oct./Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze questionnaire returns</li> <li>• Collect information on cultural resources, including: historical, archeological, and community; collect information on managed resources, including: impoundments, withdrawals, and discharges. Discussion of findings on cultural resources and managed resources.</li> </ul>
Dec./Jan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect information on land uses, including: open space, forests, local zoning discussion of findings on land uses.</li> </ul>
Feb./March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect information on recreation resources including, boating, public access, fishing, swimming, scenic roads, scenic views, trails, parks, camping sites, etc.</li> <li>• Towns consider the nomination as a warrant article at town meeting.</li> <li>• (Optional) Discussion of findings on recreation resources.</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan public meeting(s) in April.</li> <li>• Issue announcements.</li> <li>• Decide proposed classifications for river segments.</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold public meeting(s).</li> <li>• Meet with town boards and committees to seek suggestions and endorsements.</li> <li>• Decide on final recommended classifications.</li> </ul>
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit nomination to State Rivers Coordinator for completeness review.</li> </ul>
June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit completed nomination to State Rivers Coordinator.</li> </ul>
June-Sept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Rivers Coordinator and RMAC review the nomination.</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Rivers Coordinator and RMAC hold public hearing(s).</li> </ul>
October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RMAC and State Rivers Coordinator forward recommendations to the Commissioner.</li> </ul>
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsors are notified if the nomination will not be forwarded to the State Legislature.</li> </ul>
November 15	Commissioner forwards the approved nomination to the State Legislature in the form of a bill

## **Appendix D**

### **Case Study: Ammonoosuc River Corridor Advisory Committee**

The Ammonoosuc River is located in the Presidential Range of the White Mountains and is highly valued by locals and tourists for its beauty, recreational opportunities, and as a drinking water supply. The Ammonoosuc River Valley is currently in a development boom with residential and commercial growth exceeding projections. The rapid growth caused increasing concern about what impacts these changes and the resulting fragmentation, will have on water quality, wildlife, stream bank erosion, access, and the quality of recreational experience on the river.

In the fall of 2003, the town of Littleton applied and received a grant from the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund to conduct an assessment of the Ammonoosuc River corridor. The project, called the Ammonoosuc River Corridor Assessment and Enhancement Project, was designed to determine and address local concerns about the river on a corridor wide basis.

In the spring of 2004, the Littleton Selectmen sent a letter to each of the Boards of Selectmen in the other six towns in the river corridor asking for them to appoint a person to serve on the Ammonoosuc River Corridor Advisory Committee. Three additional members were selected to serve on the Committee to represent other interests groups along the river: agriculture, development, and recreation. The seven town representatives, including the towns of Littleton, Landaff, Lisbon, Bath, Carroll, Bethlehem and Haverhill, and the three interest group representatives, met for the first time in April 2004.

By the fall 2004, the committee had completed an assessment of the river corridor, which included a detailed inventory and map of the cultural and natural resources, discussed issues, and four recommendations for action. The recommended action included increasing water quality monitoring, assess erosion problems and help landowners reduce stream bank destabilization, identify restoration sites along the river, and to seek designation for the Ammonoosuc under the RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP).

To implement the recommended actions, in the summer of 2005 the Ammonoosuc River Advisory Committee started a volunteer water quality monitoring program through the N.H. Department of Environmental Services Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP). This water quality monitoring effort was supported with financial assistance from the Connecticut River Joint Commission Partnership Program and technical assistances from DES and the Grafton County Cooperative Extension Services.

Simultaneously as the water quality monitoring effort, the group began the outreach effort for the nomination process for designation. Fact sheets and other information were sent to selectmen, conservation commissions, and planning boards. Information was also sent to chambers of commerce, Main Street programs, recreational users, and other interest groups. Press releases about the nomination were sent to local newspapers along with paid announcements. In winter 2006, a series of five public meetings were held in the towns along the river corridor where presentations were made regarding the nomination process and the river's value.

By spring of 2006, the town of Littleton and the Ammonoosuc River Advisory Committee submitted their nomination document to DES for consideration. By June 2006, 27 letters of support, including letters from all seven boards of selectmen, for the designation of the river were received by DES. No letters of opposition to the nomination were received by DES at any stage of the nomination process.

On June 20, 2006 the Rivers Coordinator, in coordination with the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), held a public hearing in the town of Littleton to provide information about the RMPP and to receive public comment on the nomination. Approximately thirty people attended the hearing. All those who spoke were in favor of the nomination.

In July and August 2006, both the rivers coordinator and the RMAC recommended the designation of the Ammonoosuc River into the RMPP. The RMAC noted high levels of public support, particularly support from local elected officials, as a large part of their decision.

In September 2006, the DES commissioner recommended that the Ammonoosuc River receive designation into the RMPP. In January 2007 the General Court received a general report on the nomination and testimony in support of designation from DES and the RMAC. Hearings in the Senate and House of Representatives resulted in full support for the nomination and the bill designating the Ammonoosuc River into the RMPP easily passed the General Court and signed into law by Governor John Lynch. On August 10, 2007 the Ammonoosuc River was officially designated under RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program.

## **Appendix E**

### **Sample Warrant Article**

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to name representatives to the River Committee and to support the River Committee in preparing and submitting a nomination of the River to the Department of Environmental Services under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program.

## **Appendix F**

### **Model Landowner Questionnaire**

**The first group of questions refer to your property on the river.**

1. Do you currently own land on the river in New Hampshire?

Yes      No (If no, please skip to question #6.)

In which town is your riverfront land located?

In which town are you are resident?

2. Approximately how many acres of riverfront land and how many feet of frontage do you own?

2a. How long have you owned your riverfront property?

3. Did the river play a role in your decision to purchase your property?

Yes      No

If yes, how?

4. What is the current use of your property? (Please check the three most important uses.)

Full-time residence  
Second or vacation home  
Rental property  
Farming  
Forestry  
Retail business  
Lodging/restaurant  
Industry  
Recreation  
Investment  
Other (please specify)

5. What plans do you have for your property? (Please check up to three answers.)

Continue present use  
Full-time residence  
Second or vacation home  
Rental property  
Farming

Forestry  
Retail business  
Lodging/restaurant  
Industry  
Recreation  
Investment  
Other (please specify)

6. Do you think the river contributes to the quality of life in your community?

Yes    No

If yes, how? (Please check as many as apply.)

Open space  
Agriculture  
Water supply  
Wildlife and waterfowl habitat  
Wetland ecosystems  
Swimming  
Boating  
Fishing  
Scenic value  
Free-flowing water  
Shoreline development  
Historical/cultural sites  
Other (please specify)

7. How important is it to you that each of the following characteristics associated with the river and its corridor are conserved? (Please circle the number corresponding to your answer; 1=Very Important, 5=Very Unimportant.)

Industrial development opportunity

1       2       3       4       5

Commercial development opportunity

1       2       3       4       5

Residential development opportunity

1       2       3       4       5

Fishing access

1       2       3       4       5

Boating access

1       2       3       4       5

Swimming access  
1      2      3      4      5

Scenic quality  
1      2      3      4      5

Water quality  
1      2      3      4      5

Free-flowing river  
1      2      3      4      5

Wildlife and waterfowl habitat  
1      2      3      4      5

Fisheries habitat  
1      2      3      4      5

Wetland ecosystems  
1      2      3      4      5

Open space  
1      2      3      4      5

Other (please specify)  
1      2      3      4      5

8. Have you noticed any of the following problems along the river? (Please check as many as apply.) If there are problems that are of particular concern to you, please note their location in the margin.

Flooding  
Excessive erosion  
Water pollution  
Loss of or damage to historical or cultural sites  
Loss of farmland  
Loss of public access  
Recreation overuse  
Recreation abuses  
Loss of wetlands  
Loss of wildlife and waterfowl habitat  
Loss of fish habitat  
Destruction of or injury to critical environmental areas  
Development too close to the river  
Other (please specify)

\*\*\*\*\*

**The final group of questions relates to possible river protection measures.**

9. Do you believe that any of the following general measures should be taken to protect the river and the special opportunities it offers to the area? (Please check as many as apply.)

- Protect free-flowing nature of river
- Limit residential shoreline development
- Limit commercial shoreline development
- Limit industrial shoreline development
- Protect scenic character of the river corridor
- Protect water quality
- Provide public access
- Provide recreation facilities
- Protect wildlife and waterfowl habitat
- Protect fisheries habitat
- No additional protection needed
- Other (please specify)

10. Do you feel any of the specific steps listed below would be appropriate for river and river corridor protection? (Please check as many as apply.)

- Stricter enforcement of local and state regulations related to water and wetlands
- Minimum setback requirements for new construction
- Floodplain protection regulations
- Purchase of property in the river corridor (from willing sellers)
- Purchase of development rights in the river corridor
- Voluntary easement donation program
- Limit dam construction
- No additional protection needed
- Other (please specify)

11. Are you presently or have you considered using any of the following land protection techniques on your property? (Please check as many as apply.)

- Conservation easements
- Development restrictions
- Scenic restrictions/easements
- Deed restrictions
- Land donation
- Current use
- Other (please specify)

12. Do you feel that local governments should take action to protect the river in your community?

Yes    No

12a. If yes, are you willing to support allocating town taxes if necessary?

Yes    No

13. Are you interested in learning more about the efforts of the River Committee to nominate the river for designation into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program?

Yes    No

Please add any general comments you may wish to make regarding the river on a separate sheet of paper or below

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire!**

**Appendix G**  
**River Nomination Form**  
**New Hampshire Rivers Management and**  
**Protection Program**



Instructions: Before beginning any work on a river nomination, sponsors should contact the State Rivers Coordinator at the NH Department of Environmental Services. The rivers coordinator can provide initial guidance by identifying local and regional contacts and other sources of information and can give advice throughout the preparation of a river nomination. Refer to the publication, "A Guide to River Nominations," for a step-by-step explanation of the nomination process and a directory of federal, state, regional, and private sources of information and technical assistance. The River Coordinator's address and telephone number are: PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0095; (603) 271-8801.

**I. NOMINATION INFORMATION**

1. Name of River:
2. River/River Segment Location (and start/end points) and Length (miles):
3. (a) Sponsoring Organization or Individual:
  - (b) Contact Person:
  - (c) Address:
  - (d) Daytime Telephone Number:

**II. SUMMARY: RESOURCES OF STATEWIDE OR LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Explanation: In order to be eligible for designation to the Rivers Management and Protection Program, a river must contain or represent either a significant statewide or local example of a natural, managed, cultural, or recreational resource.

Instructions:

By checking the appropriate boxes below, indicate the resource values that you believe are present in the nominated river and its corridor and whether you believe these values are present at a level of significance that is statewide or local. If the value is not present, leave the box blank.

**Natural Resources**

	<b>Value Present/ Local Significance</b>	<b>Value Present/ Statewide Significance</b>
Geologic or Hydrologic Resources		
Wildlife Resources		
Vegetation/Natural Communities		
Fish Resources		
Rare Species or Habitat		
Water Quality		
Open Space		
Natural Flow Characteristics		

**Managed Resources**

Impoundments		
Water Withdrawals/Discharges		
Hydroelectric Resources		

### Cultural Resources

Historical/Archaeological Resources		
Community River Resources		

### Recreational Resources

	Value Present/ Local Significance	Value Present/ Statewide Significance
Fishery Resources		
Boating Resources		
Other Recreational Resources		
Public Access		

### Other Resources

Scenic Resources		
Land Use		
Land Use Controls		
Water Quantity		
Riparian/Flowage Rights		
Scientific Resources		

2. Briefly describe the most important resource values that are present in the nominated river and why you believe these values are significant from either a statewide or local perspective. For example, if the river contains a segment of whitewater that attracts kayakers from throughout the state and is identified in a regional boaters' guide as a premier whitewater boating segment, you should identify recreational boating as a significant statewide resource and include one or two sentences in support of this statement. In addition, if you feel that a resource value is threatened, explain why.

### **III. COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SUPPORT**

Explanation: The level of community and other public support which is demonstrated for a river nomination will be an important factor in determining whether that river will be recommended for legislative designation.

Such support may be shown by the adoption of a town resolution, a letter from selectmen, master plan excerpts, or documented support from other groups, either public or private (if private, explain the group's purpose and who is represented).

Instructions: Describe the type of community and other public support that exists for the river nomination and attach appropriate documentation. Include copies of any letters of support from local elected and appointed officials. Include documentation of notification of the nomination to elected public officials of all municipalities through which each nominated river or segment flows.

### **IV. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Explanation: In addition to the information provided on this nomination form, sponsors are encouraged to submit any other information which believe will support the nomination of the river. This information may include a visual presentation, for example, a slide program or a map showing the location of significant resources, or studies and reports on the river.

Instructions: List what, if any, additional supporting information has been submitted with this river nomination.

### **V. RIVER CLASSIFICATIONS**

Explanation: Each river or river segment that is designated by the state legislature will be placed into a river classification system. This classification system consists of four categories: natural, rural, rural-community and community rivers. Refer to Appendix A in the Guide to River Nominations, for a complete description and explanation of the river classification system and the instream protection measures which have been adopted by the state legislature for each classification. In this part of the nomination form, DES and the State Rivers Management Advisory Committee are interested in learning which river classification(s) you believe is most appropriate for your river.

Instructions:

1. For each classification criteria listed below (a-d), check the one box that most accurately describes the nominated river or segment.

#### **(a) General Description**

The river or segment is free-flowing and characterized by high quality natural and scenic resources. The river shoreline is in primarily natural vegetation and the river corridor is generally undeveloped and development, if any, is limited to forest management and

scattered housing. (Natural Rivers)

The river or segment is adjacent to lands which are partially or predominantly used for agriculture, forest management, and dispersed or clustered residential development. Some instream structures may exist, including low dams, diversion works and other minor modifications. (Rural Rivers)

The river or segment that flows through developed or populated areas of the state and which possesses existing or potential community resource values such as those defined in official municipal plans or land use controls. Such a river has mixed land uses in the corridor reflecting some combination of open space, agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial land uses. It is readily accessible by road or railroad and may include impoundments or diversions. (Rural-Community Rivers)

The river or segment flows through populated areas of the state and possesses actual or potential resource values, with some residential or other building development near the shoreline. The river or river segment is readily accessible by road or railroad, and may include some impoundments or diversions. (Community Rivers)

(b) Length

The river or segment is at least 5 miles long. (Natural Rivers)

The river or segment is at least 3 miles long. (Rural and Rural-Community Rivers)

The river or segment is at least 1 mile long. (Community Rivers)

(c) Water Quality

The actual water quality of the river or segment meet Class A standards under the state's water quality standards. (Natural Rivers) The actual water quality of the river or segment meets Class B standards under the state's water quality standards. (Rural, Rural-Community and Community Rivers)

(d) Distance to Roads

The minimum distance from the river shoreline to a paved road open to the public for motor vehicle use is at least 250 feet, except where a vegetative or other natural barrier exists, which effectively screens the sight and sound of motor vehicles for a majority of the length of the river. (Natural Rivers) There is no minimum distance from the river shoreline to an existing road. Roads may parallel the river shoreline

2. Based on the boxes checked above, and your knowledge of the river or segment, identify those segments of the river that you believe should be classified as either a Natural, Rural, Rural-Community, or Community River. Be sure to include the start and end point of each segment and the length of the segment in miles (for example: Natural River: headwaters, Z miles, to the Town of ABC town line; Rural River: Town of ABC town line, Y miles, to the state border). Although a river or segment may be given more than one classification, the number of differently classified segments should be kept to a minimum. If your recommendation is incompatible with any of the above-listed criteria for a particular river classification, and you believe the classification is nevertheless

appropriate and justified, explain why.

Natural River:

Rural River:

Rural-Community River:

Community River:

## **VI. Maps**

A map of the river must be appended to this resource assessment. This map should be taken from a U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle (scale 1:24,000) or equivalent in accuracy and detail. GIS maps produced to show river-related resources can serve this purpose. Include an inset or locator map showing the location of the river or segment within the state.

## **VII. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT**

### **1. Natural Resources**

#### **(a) Geologic Resources**

Briefly describe the significant geologic resources of the river and its corridor, including any unique or visually interesting features such as waterfalls, unusual rock formations, and areas of rapids. If you are unable to include such features, then simply describe the bedrock geology map. Consider geologic resources on the basis of natural history, visual, and economic interest. Indicate if the state geologist or a national or state resource assessment has identified these geologic resources as significant at a national, regional (New England), state, or local level.

#### **(b) Wildlife Resources**

(1) List the species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians commonly found in the river and river corridor.

(2) List any endangered or threatened animals that are supported by the river and river corridor environment. Include location, if known. Check whether these animals are endangered [E] or threatened [T] species and if they are significant at a national [N] or state [S] level.

Animal Species Location E or T, N or S

(3) List significant wildlife habitat which is supported by the river or to which the river is integral, for game and non-game wildlife populations. Identify if the habitat has been determined to be exceptionally diverse, very diverse, or moderately diverse by the NH Fish and Game Department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Significant Habitat Diversity Rating

(4) Determine if the river corridor is important for the movement of wildlife between large habitat areas. If it is, explain why.

### Vegetation/Natural Communities

(1) List the plant species commonly found in the river and river corridor.

(2) List any endangered or threatened plant species that are supported by the river and river corridor environment. Include location, if known. Check whether these plants are endangered [E] or threatened [T] species and if they are significant at a national [N] or state [S] level.

### Plant Species Location E or T, N or S

(3) List any vegetative communities supported by the river and the river corridor environment which have been identified as "exemplary natural ecological communities" by the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory. Include location, if known.

### Exemplary Natural Ecological Community Location

### (d) Fish Resources

(1) List the fish species commonly found in the river.

(2) List any endangered or threatened fish species which inhabit the river. Check whether these fish are endangered [E] or threatened [T] species and if they are significant at a national [N] or state [S] level.

### Fish Species Location E or T ,N or S

(3) Describe the presence and location of spawning beds, feeding areas, and other significant aquatic habitat for fish populations. Determine if the habitat is exceptionally diverse, very diverse or moderately diverse as determined by the NH Fish and Game Department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Significant Habitat Diversity Rating

(4) Indicate whether the significant fisheries found in the river rely on natural reproduction or a stocking program. If fish populations rely on a stocking program, indicate whether they are partly or wholly dependent on the program.

(5) Is the river a viable anadromous fish resource? If yes, identify any on-going or planned restoration programs.

### Water Quality

(1) Check the state's water quality classification that applies to this river or segment under state law.

Class A Class B

(2) According to readily available information, what is the actual water quality of this river under the state's water quality standards?

Class A Class B

(3) If the river is not currently supporting its water quality classification, identify the existing major causes of deficient water quality, e.g., industrial or sewage pollutants, agricultural fertilizer run-off, and possible corrective measures, e.g., regulations, enforcement, local and use controls.

#### Natural Flow Characteristics

Briefly describe the natural flow characteristics of the river, including natural periodic variation in flow, e.g., spring run-off and summer flow amount, and frequency and duration of flood events. If applicable, describe purpose of and flow variations caused by impoundments, significant diversions, or channel alterations, including interbasin transfers. Indicate which segments of the river are free-flowing.

#### Open Space

Briefly describe, give the location and identify the type, e.g., floodplain, forested, etc., and type of ownership, i.e., public or private of significant areas of open space in the river corridor. Describe and include the location of any protected land parcels within the river corridor, e.g., state parks and forests, national forest lands, municipal parks and conservation easements.

## **2. Managed Resources**

### **(a) Impoundments**

List all of the dams that are present in the river, including any dams that are breached or in ruins. Identify their location, ownership, and purpose, i.e., flood control, low flow augmentation, or storage. Also indicate whether minimum flow requirements exist at any of the impoundments, if known. Include any proposals for new or reconstructed dams; indicate that this is a proposed dam by placing an asterisk (\*) next to the name of the dam. Do not include existing or proposed dams which are used for hydroelectric energy production. These will be listed separately in the managed resources category.

Minimum Name of Dam Location Ownership Purpose Flow Req.

## (b) Water Withdrawals and Discharges

(1) List any significant water withdrawals from the river, including withdrawals for public drinking water, industry, and agriculture. Identify the purpose (e.g., irrigation) and location of the withdrawal. Indicate if the river has been identified in a state, regional, or local study as a potential source of water supply and, if so, identify the study.

Withdrawal Purpose Location Potential Source (ID Study)

(2) List all known surface water and potential discharges to the river and identify the source, type (e.g., industrial wastewater) and location of the discharge. Indicate whether the discharge has been permitted by the state (yes or no).

Point Source Discharge Type Location Permit

## (c) Hydroelectric Resources

List all known existing or potential (as cited in the NH River Protection and Energy Development Project -Final Report; New England Rivers Center, 1983) sites of hydroelectric power production. Record the owner, location and whether the site is regulated or exempt from regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

FERC Hydroelectric Facility Owner Location regulated or exempt

## 3. Cultural Resources

### (a) Historical and Archaeological Resources

Describe any significant historical or archaeological resources or sites with significant potential for such resources (as determined by the state historic preservation officer) found in the river or river corridor. Identify whether the resource is listed or is eligible to be listed as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) or on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or is a recognized Historic District (HD) or Multiple Use Area (MUA). If known, indicate whether these resources are significant at a national, regional (New England), state, or local level. Below this listing, note any local town histories, oral histories, or general historical knowledge about the use of the river and its corridor.

Historical/Archaeological Resource Listing/Eligibility Significance

Local Town Histories, Oral Histories or General Historical Knowledge

(b) Community Resource

Briefly describe how the river is recognized or used as a significant community resource. If the river's importance is recognized in any official town documents, such as a master plan, include reference to such documents.

**4. Recreational Resources**

(a) Fishery

Identify the type and location of any high quality recreational fisheries or areas with such potential that are present in the river, as determined by the NH Fish and Game Department. Also indicate areas that have potential to be significant fisheries.

(b) Boating

Describe any significant recreational boating opportunities that are present on the river, including whether it is used for motorized boating. Indicate if the river is cited as significant for recreational boating in a publication of a national, regional or statewide recreation organization. Refer to the NH River Protection and Energy Development Project to determine the river's significance as a recreational boating river. Also note if boaters are attracted from beyond the local area and if there are areas with potential to be significant boating resources.

(c) Other Recreational Opportunities

List any other recreational areas, facilities, or opportunities or potential for such on the river or in the river corridor, e.g., hiking, camping, picnicking, etc. Indicate ownership, if known.

Recreational Area Ownership Location

(d) Public Access

List any existing public access sites located along the river. These may be formal or non-formal access points. Include the type of public access (e.g., canoe only), related facilities (e.g., parking), and if known, ownership at each site.

Location Type of Access Related Facilities Ownership

**5. Other Resources**

(a) Scenic Resources

Briefly describe any significant scenic focal points along the river including designated viewing areas and scenic vistas and overlooks. Indicate the location of the significant views to and from the river.

(b) Land Use

Briefly describe the general patterns of current land use in the river corridor. Include location of significant developments within the river corridor including agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial developments, and solid waste management facilities. Also include location of lands used for forest management or which are undeveloped. Identify such features as roads along the river, railroads, bridges, and utility crossings. Describe the type and location of any proposals for major developments within the river corridor.

(c) Land Use Controls

Identify the municipalities with existing master plans and zoning ordinances within the river corridor. Identify existing or significant proposed land use controls which affect the river and the river corridor (e.g., zoning, easements, subdivision regulations).

(d) Water Quantity

List the location of all operating stream gauge stations maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Department of Environmental Services. Include the number of years of record and whether it is a partial or full record station.

(e) Riparian Interests/Flowage Rights

Briefly describe any riparian interests in the corridor, including any known flowage rights, historic water uses and legislative authorizations or appropriations. For example, a town given legislative authorization to water for public consumption in the 19th century.

## **VIII. RIVER POINT EVALUATION SUGGESTION AND JUSTIFICATION**

Explanation: By law, the rivers coordinator must evaluate the nomination using a system that has been designed to both identify significant resources and to ensure consistency in the manner in which each river nomination is evaluated. The system consists of a general evaluation and the awarding of points for the presence of significant resources within each resource category. Sponsors of the nomination are requested to suggest the number of points they feel should be awarded for the significant resources contained within each resource category and a brief justification regarding why those points should be awarded.

Instructions: Complete the table below. Please note that if a resource is present that all points for that resource should be awarded, however, only these points may not exceed the maximum points in each resource category.

Category	Points Available	Maximum Points	Suggested Points to be Awarded	Justification for Points
NATURAL RESOURCE CATEGORY		205		
(a) Geologic Resources		30		
(1) national or regional significance	30			
(2) statewide significance	20			
(3) local significance	10			
(b) Wildlife Resources		30		
(1) endangered or threatened species		15		
a. national significance	15			
b. statewide significance	10			
(2) significant wildlife habitat		10		
a. Habitat that is within a conservation focus area or that is known to have contained or currently contains state or federally listed endangered or threatened species	10			
b. Habitat that is within an area of highest quality habitat statewide or highest quality in the biological region and/or is a habitat for a species of special concern	5			

Category	Points Available	Maximum Points	Suggested Points to be Awarded	Justification for Points
c. Habitat that is within an area of supporting landscapes or that contains other species of greatest conservation moderately diverse	3			
d. Adjacent habitat	1			
(3) wildlife travel corridor		5		
(c) Vegetation/Natural Communities		20		
(1) endangered or threatened plant		15		
a. national significance	15			
b. statewide significance	10			
(2) exemplary natural ecological community		5		
(d) Fish Resources		35		
(1) endangered or threatened fish		15		
a. national significance	15			
b. statewide significance	10			
(2) significant aquatic habitat		10		

Category	Points Available	Maximum Points	Suggested Points to be Awarded	Justification for Points
a. Habitat that is within a conservation focus area or is known to have contained or currently contains state or federally listed endangered or threatened species.	10			
b. Habitat that is within an area of highest quality habitat statewide or highest quality in the biological region and/or is a habitat for a species of special concern	5			
c. Habitat that is within an area of supporting landscapes or contains other species of greatest conservation need.	3			
d. Adjacent habitat not located within any of the above.	1			
(3) fish reproduction		5		
a. natural reproduction	5			
b. some stocking	3			
c. stocking	1			
(4) anadromous fish		5		
a. reproducing populations of diadromous fish	5			
b. restoration begun	3			

Category	Points Available	Maximum Points	Suggested Points to be Awarded	Justification for Points
c. documented restoration plan	1			
(e) Water Quality		30		
(1) Class A	30			
(2) Class B	15			
(f) Open Space	10 per occurrence	30		
(g) Natural Flow Characteristics		30		
(1) 100 percent free-flowing	30			
(2) largely free-flowing	15			
SUBTOTAL NATURAL RESOURCES		205		
MANAGED RESOURCE CATEGORY		90		
(a) Impoundments		30		
(b) Water Withdrawals and Discharges		30		
(1) water withdrawals		20		
a. existing public drinking water supply	10			

Category	Points Available	Maximum Points	Suggested Points to be Awarded	Justification for Points
b. potential public drinking water supply	5			
c. existing industrial water supply	5			
d. potential industrial water supply	3			
e. existing agricultural water supply	5			
f. potential agricultural water supply	3			
(2) wastewater discharges		10		
a. wastewater treatment facility discharge	10			
b. industrial wastewater discharge	5			
(c) Hydroelectric Resources		30		
(1) existing hydroelectric power production	30			
(2) potential hydroelectric power site	15			
SUBTOTAL MANAGED RESOURCES		90		
CULTURAL RESOURCE CATEGORY		60		
(a) Historical or Archeological Resource		30		

Category	Points Available	Maximum Points	Suggested Points to be Awarded	Justification for Points
(1) national significance	30			
(2) regional significance	15			
(3) statewide significance	10			
(b) Community River Resource	10 per occurrence	30		
SUBTOTAL CULTURAL RESOURCES		60		
RECREATIONAL RESOURCE CATEGORY		120		
(a) Fishery		30		
(1) Year-round coldwater fish habitat.	30			
(2) Seasonal coldwater and warmwater fish habitat.	20			
(3) Year-round warmwater fish habitat.	10			
(4) Seasonal warmwater fish habitat.	5			
(b) Boating		30		
(c) Other Recreation	10 per occurrence	30		

Category	Points Available	Maximum Points	Suggested Points to be Awarded	Justification for Points
	e			
(d) Public Access		30		
(1) on publicly-owned land	30			
(2) on privately-owned land	15			
SUBTOTAL RECREATIONAL RESOURCES		120		
OTHER RESOURCE CATEGORY		120		
(a) Scenery		30		
(b) Land Use		30		
(1)high quality scenic and natural resources; corridor generally undeveloped or limited to forest management or scattered housing	30			
(2)corridor partially to predominantly used for agriculture, forest management and residential housing	20			
(3)corridor populated; some residential or other building developments; readily accessible by	10			

Category	Points Available	Maximum Points	Suggested Points to be Awarded	Justification for Points
road				
(4)corridor highly populated; contains significant development	5			
(c) Land Use Controls	10 per occurrence	30		
(d) Water Quantity		30		
SUBTOTAL OTHER RESOURCES		120		
TOTAL POINTS		595		

Final note: Before submitting the nomination, please check the form for completeness. Nomination forms are reviewed for completeness by the Department of Environmental Services. Be sure to consult [RSA 483](#) and Env-Wq 1803.02 to make sure that all information requirements have been met. Incomplete nominations will be ineligible for consideration by the State Legislature in the next legislative session.

## Appendix H

### Nomination Checklist

The following is a checklist of required information for each river nomination, as described in [RSA 483:6](#).

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Name of the river
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_ Location of the river or segment; \_\_\_\_\_ Length of the river or segment
- (c) \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor's name; \_\_\_\_\_ Address; \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone
- (d) \_\_\_\_\_ Description of significant resources contained in the river or segment and its corridor
- (e) \_\_\_\_\_ Description of community and public support for the nomination; \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of any letters of support from elected and appointed local officials
- (f) \_\_\_\_\_ Documentation of notification of the nomination to elected public officials of all municipalities through which each nominated river or segment flows.
- (g) \_\_\_\_\_ Recommendation on the classification(s) for the river or segment; \_\_\_\_\_ Start and End point of each segment; \_\_\_\_\_ Length in miles of each segment
- (h) \_\_\_\_\_ USGS map of the river or segment and its corridor; \_\_\_\_\_ Inset or locator map showing location of river or segment within the state
- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ Assessment of river or segment's resources, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Geologic resources
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife resources
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetation; \_\_\_\_\_ Natural communities
  - (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Fish resources
  - (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Water quality as designated pursuant to RSA 485-A:9 or as shown by actual water quality analysis, if available
  - (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Hydrologic resources, including natural flow characteristics
  - (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Open space

- (8)\_\_\_\_ Dams/Impoundments
- (9)\_\_\_\_ Existing withdrawals
- \_\_\_\_ Potential withdrawals
- \_\_\_\_ Existing discharges
- \_\_\_\_ Potential discharges
- (10)\_\_\_\_ Existing hydroelectric resources
- \_\_\_\_ Potential hydroelectric resources
- (11)\_\_\_\_ Historical or archaeological resources
- (12)\_\_\_\_ Community river resources
- (13)\_\_\_\_ Existing recreational resources
- \_\_\_\_ Fishery
- \_\_\_\_ Boating
- \_\_\_\_ Other
- \_\_\_\_ Public access
- \_\_\_\_ Potential recreational resources
- \_\_\_\_ Fishery
- \_\_\_\_ Boating
- \_\_\_\_ Other
- \_\_\_\_ Public access
- (14)\_\_\_\_ Scenic characteristics
- (15)\_\_\_\_ Current land use
- \_\_\_\_ Current land use controls
- (16)\_\_\_\_ Water quantity
- (17)\_\_\_\_ Riparian interests/Flowage rights

(j)\_\_\_\_ River point evaluation and justification

**Please be sure your river nomination includes at least all of the above information. Include two hard copies and one electronic copy of the nomination when submitting nomination to NHDES. Thank you for participating in the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program.**